Allocation of Wheat and Rice to Gujarat

@2304. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat and rice allocated to Gujarat upto 30th June, 1993 for distribution under the Public Distribution System;

(b) whether the allocation was made according to the demand made by the State Government for the above period;

(c) if not, what are the reasons for lesser allocation; and

(d) the steps taken to supply more wheat and rice as required by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) From January, 1993 to 30th June, 1993, the Government of Gujarat was allocated 2.07 lakh tonnes of rice and 3.31 lakh tonnes of wheat under Public Distribution System. In addition to this 20,000 Metric Tonnes of Jowar was also allocated to them during this period.

(b) to (d) Demands received from many of the State Governments including Gujarat have been generally on the high side which cannot be met entirely by the Central Government in view of the fact that the procurement of foodgrains for the Central Pool varies from 12 to 18% of the production and the allocation out of the Central Pool is only supplemental to the open market availability. Therefore allocations of Wheat and Rice from the Central Pool are made to the various States/Union Territories including Gujarat on a month to month basis taking into account the stocks available in the Central Pool, seasonal availability, offtake trend, relative needs of various State/UTs and other related factors.

India as a Member of International Sugar Organisation

@@2305. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is a member of the International Sugar Organisation (I.S.O.);

(b) whether it is a fact that on account of removal of some clauses from the International Sugar Agreement some important countries have withdrawn from the Membership of I.S.O.;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) what is the rationale of India's continuation as the member of I.S.O.;

(e) the number of the delegations visited abroad to attend its meeting during the past three years; and

(f) what have been the expenses on these visits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The reasons for which countries may join or opt out of the International Sugar Agreement would depend on the perception of their national interests. A statement-I showing the membership of the prevalent International Sugar Agreement 1992, as on 31-7-93, is enclosed. (*See below*)

(d) The membership of the Agreement enables us to get information on the international sugar situation in respect of country-wise production/consumption as well as likely imports/exports, market review, prices and future trends, assessment of various developments taking place in the sugar industry, as well as changes in policies in different countries and other such matters. It also provides us with detailed impact reports/analysis/assessment of the beet sugar industry and also of artificial sweeteners. All this information is useful to our country for planning its exports. Membership of the I.S.O. also enables us to seek funds from the common Fund for Commodities for projects connected with sugar and sugarcane.

(e) and (f) The number of the delegations sent abroad to attend the meetings of the International Sugar Organisation during the past three years and the expenses incurred thereon are given in enclosed Statement II.

Statement I

S. No.	Name of the Country
1.	Argentina
2.	Australia
3.	Barbados

@Previously Unstarred Question 1765, transferred from 9th August, 1993.

@@Previously Unstarred Question 1409, transferred from 5th August, 1993.